

County of San Diego  
Revised: December 31, 2002  
Reviewed: Spring 2003

**PEDIATRIC THERAPY SPECIALIST I**  
**PEDIATRIC THERAPY SPECIALIST II**  
**PEDIATRIC THERAPY SPECIALIST III**

**Class No. 004421**  
**Class No. 004422**  
**Class No. 004423**

**DEFINITION:**

To administer prescribed/medically necessary occupational or physical therapy services to children with physical disabilities and to perform related work as required.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**

Pediatric Therapy Specialist positions are found only in the California Children Services (CCS) Program of the Health and Human Services Agency. Incumbents are licensed occupational or physical therapists who specialize in the area of pediatrics and provide therapy to physically disabled children who are medically eligible for the California Children Services Medical Therapy Program.

**Pediatric Therapy Specialist I:**

This is the journey level class in the Pediatric Therapy Specialist class series. Under general supervision, incumbents provide occupational or physical therapy services to children with physical disabilities.

**Pediatric Therapy Specialist II:**

This is the lead level class in the Pediatric Therapy Specialist series. Incumbents, under general supervision, provide prescribed occupational or physical therapy services to children with physical disabilities; and provide technical guidance to and assist in the supervision of lower level professional and support therapy staff; or act as support services specialists working with parents and educational personnel; or work independently in a satellite location.

**Pediatric Therapy Specialist III:**

This is the first-line supervisory level in the Pediatric Therapy Specialist class series. Incumbents report to the Chief, Rehabilitation Services and under general supervision, plan, direct and supervise the day-to-day operations of a medical-therapy unit (MTU) and/or satellite site of the California Children Services (CCS) Program.

**EXAMPLES OF DUTIES :**

Applies to all classes:

Provides medically necessary occupational or physical therapy services within a school-based setting to children with neuromuscular or musculoskeletal disorders or to children at risk for developing those disorders; schedules, examines, evaluates and identifies physical capabilities and disabilities; develops therapeutic goals, objectives and treatment plans; monitors and charts patient's therapy progress; uses therapeutic techniques; participates in clinics; assists physicians in the evaluation of patients by applying various ability tests; orders and maintains therapy equipment; develops and maintains special adaptive therapy equipment and devices; and prepares and maintains records reports.

### **Pediatric Therapy Specialist II:**

All of the duties mentioned and: provides technical guidance and supervision to lower level therapy personnel; provides consultation and instruction to parents and other relatives or interested individuals in methods of continuation of treatments at home; provides consultation to other agencies and assists in the training of lower level professional and support therapy staff; assists in carrying out routine administrative tasks.

### **Pediatric Therapy Specialist III:**

Supervises, evaluates and rates the work performance of lower level staff assigned to a specific Medical Therapy Unit (MTU) to provide treatment to physically disabled children; coordinates physical and occupational therapy programs and assigns work to subordinate therapists, assistants, clerks and students; evaluates and rates staff work performance; collaborates treatment with other divisions of the department, other county departments, educational authorities, parents and other concerned parties; reviews requests for specialized equipment for individual patients, and authorizes when eligible; reviews requests for and arranges therapy services through therapy providers in the community when necessary; reviews and audits all current open cases for compliance with operative standards and regulations, for current and adequate reports, for appropriate diagnosis, evaluation, treatment plan and service delivery; explains program policies and objectives to patients, parents and other interested parties; orients new staff and provides in-service training in specific technical areas related to patient treatment; assists the Chief, Rehabilitation Services with MTU program development; provides administrative and technical oversight of program operations in county area covered by the MTU.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

Knowledge Level:     T = Thorough;     G = General;     -- = Not Applicable

Classification Level:     I = Pediatric Therapy Specialist I  
                                      II = Pediatric Therapy Specialist II  
                                      III = Pediatric Therapy Specialist III

### **Knowledge of:**

<b><u>I</u></b>	<b><u>II</u></b>	<b><u>III</u></b>	
T	T	T	Principles, methods and equipment used in physical or occupational therapy for children and adolescents with physical disabilities.
T	T	T	Normal and abnormal growth and development of children.
T	T	T	Neuro-physiological approach to neuro-muscular dysfunction.
T	T	T	Construction, use and care of orthopedic devices and equipment.
T	T	T	Human anatomy and physiology including all systems of the body, with emphasis on musculoskeletal, circulatory and nervous systems.
T	T	T	Relationships of anatomical structures to normal and abnormal movement including surface anatomy.
T	T	T	Pathophysiological conditions resulting from injury and disease, and psychosocial reactions to illness and disease.
T	T	T	Concepts and scope of physical and occupational therapy and its relationships to other health professions.
T	T	T	Measurement and treatment techniques for neuromuscular or musculoskeletal disorders.
T	T	T	Professional ethics and conduct.
T	T	T	The interrelationship of the various disciplines involved in the rehabilitation of physically disabled children.
G	T	T	Medical legal aspects of physical and occupational therapy.
G	T	T	CCS program policies and procedures.

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|----|----|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -- | G  | T | Federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to physical therapy treatment of patients eligible for the CCS program. |
| -- | G  | T | Principles and practices of supervision and training.                                                                     |
| -- | -- | G | The General Management System in principle and in practice.                                                               |

**Skills and Abilities to:**

The following apply to all classes:

- Deliver prescribed occupational or physical therapy.
- Evaluate patient progress.
- Maintain a caseload.
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing.
- Establish effective interpersonal relations with staff, patients, parents and other interested persons.
- Apply physical or occupational therapy principles and techniques in the treatment of children with physical disabilities.
- Use special equipment applicable to physical or occupational therapy.

**Pediatric Therapy Specialist II (In addition to the above):**

- Instruct and train subordinate staff in occupational or physical therapy techniques, exercises and equipment.
- Prepare records and reports for department administration and state program reviewers.

**Pediatric Therapy Specialist III (In addition to the above):**

- Plan, organize, direct and supervise the work of professional and support staff.
- Manage and administer a therapy unit to assure program compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, interagency agreements, CCS policies and procedures, and due process.
- Assure therapy services are medically necessary.
- Utilize resolution of conflict skills.

**EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:**

Education, training and /or experience, which demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

**Pediatric Therapy Specialist I:**

1. Graduation from a school with an accredited occupational therapy curriculum AND one (1) year of clinical experience working with physically disabled children as a certified or licensed occupational therapist; OR,
2. Graduation from a school with an accredited physical therapy curriculum AND one (1) year of clinical experience working with physically disabled children as a licensed physical therapist.

**Pediatric Therapy Specialist II:**

1. Graduation from a school with an accredited occupational therapy curriculum AND two (2) years of clinical experience working with physically disabled children as a certified or licensed occupational therapist; OR,
2. Graduation from a school with an accredited physical therapy curriculum AND two (2) years of clinical experience working with physically disabled children as a licensed physical therapist.

**Pediatric Therapy Specialist III:**

1. Graduation from a school with an accredited occupational therapy curriculum AND three (3) years of clinical experience (supervisory experience is highly desirable) working with physically disabled children as a certified or licensed occupational therapist; OR,
2. Graduation from a school with an accredited physical therapy curriculum AND three (3) years of clinical experience (supervisory experience is highly desirable) working with physically disabled children as a licensed physical therapist.

**SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES OR REQUIREMENTS:****Professional License:**

Incumbents must be licensed as an occupational therapist by the California Board of Occupational Therapy; **OR**, must be licensed as a physical therapist by the State of California Department of Consumer Affairs, Physical Therapy Board of California.

**Professional Certification:**

In order to consider clinical experience under the certification option; certification must have been obtained by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.

**Note:**

Physical Therapy applicants who are licensed physical therapists in another state besides California, must show proof of application for licensure as a physical therapist with the State of California Department of Consumer Affairs, Physical Therapy Board of California. These Physical Therapist License Applicants must obtain their license as provided in the California Business and Professions Code; Division 2; Chapter 5.7; Section 2636.5 and Section 2639 or they will be terminated from county service.

Occupational Therapy applicants who are licensed occupational therapists in another state besides California, must show proof of application for licensure as an occupational therapist with the California Board of Occupational Therapy (BOT). They must have completed an accredited Occupational Therapy program, including the minimum hours of required fieldwork, and passed the national examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Applicants who have applied for and been found eligible to take the next scheduled examination and those awaiting test results can apply for a limited permit and practice as an Occupational Therapist under the supervision of a licensed Occupational Therapist. Applicants must obtain their license per BOT or they will be terminated from county service.

**License:**

A valid California Class C driver's license or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel is required at the time of appointment. Pediatric Therapy Specialist I/II/III positions are required to use their private vehicle to travel to various school sites.

**Physical Requirements:**

Incumbents must have the physical ability to lift and move patients.

**Background Investigation:**

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness with no felony convictions. Misdemeanor convictions may be disqualifying depending on number, severity, and recency. Prior to appointment, candidates offered employment

in Health Services Programs that deal with patients and/or drugs will be subject to limited security clearance investigation performed by the Sheriff's Department.

**Work Locations:**

Opportunities could be in any on of the following CCS Medical Therapy Program locations: Vista, Escondido, San Diego, El Cajon, Chula Vista, Poway or other satellite site. Therapists are assigned to the unit where the vacancy occurs.

**Probationary Period:**

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of twelve (12) months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).